

Testimony of Eva Eason
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To the Education Committee, Public Hearing on March 23, 2009

S.B. No. 1142: *AN ACT CONCERNING RELIEF OF STATE MANDATES ON SCHOOL DISTRICTS*

Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. My name is Eva Eason and I am a senior at New Canaan High School. I want to talk about Bill Number 1142.

Last year I was angry at my teacher. The assistant principal suspended me from school for 2 days because I spilled coffee on my teacher's keyboard. I had to stay home for 2 days. My mother was busy working and I do not like staying home alone. On the first day, my brother Robbie stayed home with me and we watched TV all day. On the second day, my other brother, Karl, stayed home with me and we watched TV all day. It was fun. I want to be suspended again. If I had to stay in school for suspension, they would make me do my work and my brothers would not be allowed to skip school. Please keep sending kids home for suspension so we can watch TV and have fun instead of looking at books.

As far as Burden of Proof, I really don't understand this. My mother says it will make it harder for kids like me to get good programs at school. I voted this year for the first time. I understand that you are our leaders. People like me voted for you. School is very hard for me but I am doing the best I can. Please do not make laws that will hurt kids like me.

I am 19 years old. Next year I want to go to Norwalk Community College. Some kids find school very easy. But it's not easy for me. I have a disability called Down syndrome. That means that it takes me longer to learn everything. It's very hard for me to go to school. I need lots of extra help in every single class. I want to go to college like everyone else. But I cannot go alone. No one at Norwalk Community College has Down syndrome. I need my teachers in New Canaan to help me learn how to be a college student. I need my teachers in New Canaan to help me find a part time job. College starts in September and ends in June. Please do not pass a law so kids like me will stop getting help before the end of the college year.

Thank you very much for listening to me.

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